

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF MYMARIDÆ
PARASITIC IN PSOCID EGGS (HYMN.)

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Mr. F. J. Spruyt, who collected the material from which this new species of *Alaptus* is described, desires to publish some notes on its biology, and the description is published at this time in order to make the name available for his use.

Alaptus psocidivorus Gahan, new species

This species runs to *minimus* Walker in the key to species of the genus *Alaptus* published by Girault (Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer., Vol. I, 1908, p. 193). It has a much shorter ovipositor than *minimus*, as that species is represented in the national collection by the specimens studied by Girault. In *minimus*, viewed from the ventral side, the ovipositor slit extends the whole length of the abdomen from base to apex, while in the new species this slit begins at about the third segment and extends to the apex of the abdomen. In *minimus* the fore wing has a distinct longitudinal row of discal cilia paralleling the anterior margin at a considerable distance from the margin, in the apex of the wing becoming more or less double. In the present species the disc of the wing is bare except for a single longitudinal row of cilia so close to the anterior margin that it is more or less confused with the ever-present row of short cilia occurring between the bases of the long marginal cilia. In *cæciliæ* Girault the ovipositor is about as in the new species, but the fore wing has from two to six cilia on the disc arranged in a longitudinal row down the middle. Girault's species is also paler in color than *psocidivorus*.

Female. Length, 0.48 mm. Head as broad as thorax; antennæ almost exactly as figured for *minimus* by Girault (l. c., p. 183); scape strongly curved; pedicel much thicker than the funicle and a little less than twice as long as broad; funicle joints 1-3 cylindrical, the second barely longer than either the first or third and about four times as long as broad, joints 4 and 5 thicker and subovate, the fifth approximately twice as long as broad and subequal in length to the first; club elongate ovate, thicker than the last funicle joint and equal in length to the three preceding joints; thorax mostly smooth; the mesoscutum weakly reticulated; scutellum transverse, pillow-shaped,

with a strong transverse groove or fold across the middle, the area behind the fold with its lateral angles striated longitudinally; fore wings normal for the genus, the longest marginal cilia about three times as long as the broadest part of the wing-blade; hind wings with a single row of discal cilia near the margin; abdomen broadly oval, about as long as head and thorax combined, the tergites subequal, the first apparently incised medially; ovipositor barely extending beyond apex of abdomen. Color (in balsam) brownish testaceous, the head usually a little darker than the thorax; legs pale testaceous; fore wing hyaline with the base proximad of the notch faintly streaked with fuscous; hind wing mottled with fuscous throughout its length.

Male. Length, 0.47 mm. Similar to the female except that the abdomen is subquadrate, no broader than the thorax, and the antennæ are ten-jointed, the flagellar joints all subequal in length and subcylindrical, each about three times as long as broad. Color very slightly darker than in the female.

Type locality. **Stanford University, California.**

Type. Cat. No. 28,676, U. S. N. M.

Described from many specimens of both sexes, mounted in balsam, and received from F. J. Spruyt with the statement that they were reared in April, 1923, from the eggs of a psocid occurring on *Heteromeles*. Type, allotype and thirty-six paratypes in the United States National Museum. Other paratypes returned to the collector for deposit in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences and in his own collection.

SOME RECENT PAPERS

Our American Dipterists will be interested in a paper by Dr. O. Kröber, published in the *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* (Vol. LXXXVII, pages 209-353), entitled "Die Chrysopsarten Nordamerikas einschl. Mexicos," and in a paper by Dr. F. R. Cole (*Proc. Calif. Academy of Sciences*, Ser. 4, Vol. XIV, No. 14) on the terminal abdominal structures of male Diptera. The former is a revision of our North American species of Chrysops, the latter a work of 103 pages and 21 plates reviewing and illustrating the male genital characters of each of the dipterous families. Number 3 of Volume VII of the recently revived *Entomologica Americana*, contains a classification of the nut curculios (formerly *Blaninus*) of Boreal America which will interest our Coleopterists.